

THE

# Capitol

NEWS

FROM HOLLYWOOD

VOL. 5, NO. 5

52

MAY, 1947





EDITED BY DAVE DEXTER, JR.

## At Deadline

Will Osborne will have the distinction of being the first American bandleader to appear, professionally, in Great Britain since the British musicians' union officially banned American tours in retaliation to James C. Petrillo's snub of English bands.

But there's a reason for the distinction. According to Osborne, who sailed for London from New York on April 22, he is eligible to perform abroad because he has maintained his membership in the Canadian union for 20 years. The Canuck organization is a branch of the British union.

Osborne said he would employ British musicians, however. His only other alternative was to have taken a band of Canadians across the Atlantic with him, but the expense of that operation prohibited it. Besides, he added, the British musicians are pretty talented, too, and he figures he can click with them as well as he did with American tootlers.

Maurice Duke, band manager, sails for France June 5. Larry Adler, who is in England now, is due back the middle of May.

Another new band was being launched in Hollywood as May 1 neared. It is led by Dick Pierce, a former fighter pilot in the AAF, and features Karen (Once known as Billie) Tedder as vocalist.

Johnny Plonsky, trumpeter formerly with the Ray Bauduc and Nappy Lamare combos, breaking in his new trio in Hollywood.

Zutty Singleton, vet New Orleans skinnerman, doing a single in a Riverside, Cal., nitery. The Three Bits of Rhythm also are billed.

Betty Hutton and family back from trek to Chicago.

Red Norvo, resting in Hollywood, announced he would record a special album of xylophone solos for future Capitol release.



## DAVE DEXTER'S surface noise

### The Man at the End of the Plank

"You guys who write about bands and musicians think you know the book," the man on the next stool snorted, reaching for a snort. "All these months you've been moanin' about bum business, and I guess it was pretty tough there for a time. But do you know that things are lookin' great again? And if you know it, why don't you print it?"

### "Now Take Butch Stone . . . Nice Guy . . ."

"They're all comin' back, Tommy, Les, Carter and a lot of others who checked out last winter. They tell me records are sellin' like crazy again, but then you'd know more about that. I ain't plannin' to argue the subject, you understand, and please accept the next one with my full compliments, but sometimes you writin' guys hack me to nubbins.

"Take Butch Stone. Nice guy, Butch. Used to know him around the Bronx. Well, Butch ain't the smartest guy in the world but I can assure you nonetheless that right here on these stools you'll find a half-dozen characters who ain't got half his brains. And Butch is cuttin' out this month to lead his own band. He has bided his time, you might say, and he knows which way the wind is blowin' although it does seem rather quiet out right now, but you'll get the simile anyway. Well—and let me catch this next round I insist—Butch will take Teddy Nash with him right offa Les Brown's payroll and guys like Jimmy Rowles on keys, Dick Shanahan on snares, Tony Rizzi, Arnold Fishkind, Cussie Bivona, and a trumpet player if he can find one—they are good guys led by a determined, experienced guy and anything might happen. We'll know a month from now after that gang of wolves in Billy Berg's has passed its almighty decision.

### "The Same Chick on Two Mag Covers . . . How Come?"

"The mags? You writin' guys always wanta talk shop. I get my yucks watchin' you all peck at each other. So you think the be-boppers are dead and Metronome thinks they're just gettin' started. Who really cares? Okay, okay, you've got a point Old Man and I'll admit the biggest howl of the year was Metronome's all-star biscuit. Those guys for five years have shouted for 'progressive' music, whatever they mean by that, and then they get Larry Brown, Carney, Hodges, Nat Cole, Hawk and a bunch of '21-karat cats together and whadda they do? Haw, they play ancient 12-bar blues, one chorus after another, with each man blowin' the fills and clutterin' everything up and they wind up with a flop master that Jelly-Roll or King Oliver himself would have rejected for release 25 years ago.

"Well, I'd lots rather talk about those roaches they're gettin' ready to saddle out at Hollywood Park but I'll have one more quick one—it isn't often I get to tell you writin' guys off. No, I insist it's my turn and it's a pleasure, a real pleasure, Old Man. Alright, thanks, and you really shouldn't.

"Gotta note from Walt Holze the other day. Did you know he was switchin' the name of 'Band Leaders' mag to 'Radio & Record Stars' and that Jo Stafford kicks off the new monicker with not only the front cover but also a six-page biography? Sure, your gal Julia Lee gets a break inside the rag too, but it strikes me as more than merely peculiar that you and Holze grabbed the same chick at the same time for front covers.

### "You Writin' Guys Have Problems, Too . . ."

"Okay, it's fine out today and I'm findin' myself in a good-hearted mood and I'm not even goin' to fight with you, Old Man, even though some of those decisions you give every Saturday on Stompy Jarvis's 'Can You Tie That?' program should keep you from sleepin' nights.

"Yeah, pops, it was nice seein' you again. Don't take anything I said too personally. You guys have your own problems too, I guess. I'll catch the tip—allow me. And if you wanta be sure this little 'bake wasn't a waste of time allow me to hip you on Fannie's Folly in the sixth at Bay Meadows tomorrow. A cinch. Oughta' be good for at least 10 to 1 too."

## Cole Following Sarah Vaughn At the Bocage

The Hollywood Bocage opening of the King Cole Trio has been switched from May 27 to June 3. It will be for five weeks only.

Cole and his sidekicks, Oscar Moore and Johnny Miller, will play a single week at the Lincoln Theater in downtown Los Angeles starting May 13. This month the boys are touring in the Southwest, and experimenting, in Texas, with concerts which they intend to present with more regularity later this fall.

The engagement of the combo at the Bocage will follow Sarah Vaughn's appearance. An eastern oriole, Sarah will follow Peggy Lee into the smart Sunset Boulevard bistro on May 6. Miss Vaughn, incidentally, has never appeared on the west coast before as a single.

## Stafford Digging For Rare Ditties

(Photo on Front Cover)

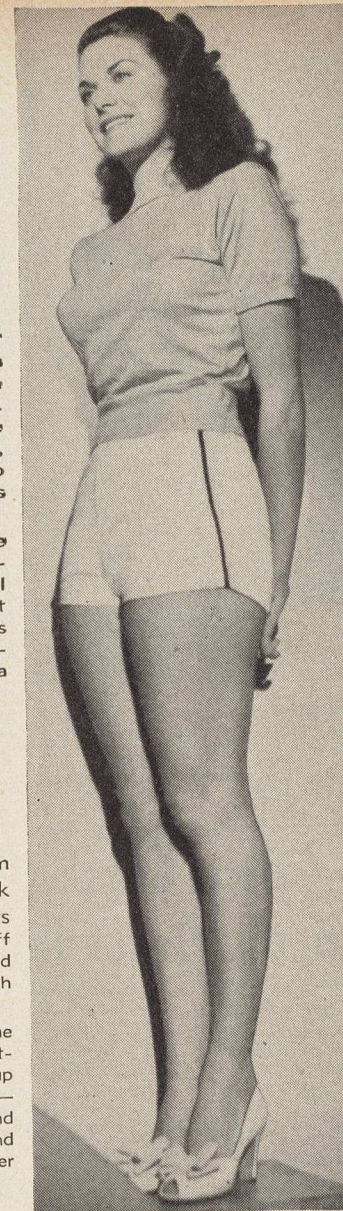
With her Chesterfield program rumored going three times a week over NBC instead of only Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jo Stafford has gone off on a new hobby tangent—seeking and tabulating old American folksongs which have long been forgotten.

Jo, who teams with Paul Weston, the Weston orchestra and the Starlighters—a talented west coast vocal group featuring the voice of Pauline Byrne—on the radio series, learns the lyrics and melodies of the songs she unearths and will feature them frequently on her broadcasts and records.

## Tom Dorsey Planning To Have an Ork Again

Tommy Dorsey is planning to toss his hat into the bandleading ring again. Following his long vacation in Florida, TD advises friends in Hollywood that he will return here and open at the Casino Gardens Ballroom, which he owns. The reorganization is expected sometime in May. Stuart Foster will be the vocal soloist.

Pearl Bailey, whose last visit to coast was last fall for scenes in Paramount's "Variety Girl" flicker, opened on April 28 at Slapsy Maxie's Club.



BRITAIN'S BERYL. . . This lovely chunk of stuff is a recent import from London. Her name is Beryl Davis and she's been clicking in Hollywood as singer on Bob Hope's airshow and on numerous AFRS programs. In London, during the war, Beryl sang with the late Glenn Miller's band.

## 'Bells' for Frankie Boy

Frank Sinatra's next film, according to RKO Studios, will be "The Miracle of the Bells" starring Fred MacMurray. The baritone will play the role of a priest.

## Goodman Pushes Capitol Into Classics Field

Benny Goodman has launched his own "classical" division at Capitol Records. With the pianist Nadia Reisenberg accompanying his clarinet virtuosity, Benny needled Von Weber's "Concertino for Clarinet" on his initial longhair session in Hollywood in early April and is contemplating additional performances in the legit groove for future release.

Capitol, until Goodman was signed as an artist recently, had confined its wax output to the popular field exclusively.

Benny plans to remain on the west coast through June, doing his Monday eve NBC program with Vic Borge and facing the stiffest recording schedule of his long career. He also has been busy transcribing special radio messages for rebroadcast to Russia under auspices of the U. S. State Department. Plans call for Goodman to be heard six times a week commenting upon American and Russian music and offering recorded examples of the former for Russian consumption.

## 'Natural 7' Set For Disc Debut

(Photo on Page 8)

Signing of Red Ingle and the Natural Seven, a novelty band, was announced in late April by Capitol. Ingle's first record will be released on May 19, coupling his zany versions of "Temptation" and "I Love You for Seventy Mental Reasons."

Ingle, for 15 years prominent in music circles the nation over as a star of Ted Weems' orchestra—he plays saxophone—will burlesque popular songs. Vocalists on his first two faces include Buttermilk Tussie and Cinderella G. Stump.

## Perry Como Planning New Air, Film Stints

After three years under contract to 20th-Fox for motion pictures, Perry Como last month secured his release and is rumored to be signing with MGM for future pic work. Como, who shares the NBC Chesterfield radio mike with Jo Stafford, also plans to make a change in his radio activities starting next fall with a soup manufacturer reportedly having him signed for a 15-minute nightly stint.





FIRST WAXING made by Benny Goodman's new quintet, "Fine and Dandy," will be released by Capitol this month. Exactly three-fifths of the group is pictured here, Benny himself, Ernie Filice on hot accordion and Harry Babasin on bass. The other two, missing above, include Tommy Todd at the piano and Tom Romersa on drums.

## Fast-Moving Ernie Filice Combo Soon to Be Heard on Records

Young Ernie Filice and his Quartet, who have been attracting wide attention on the west coast for several months as a result of their guest appearances on Bing Crosby's program and motion picture work at Paramount, have just signed a Capitol contract. The first etching featuring Ernie's unique accordion stylings and vocals will be released about May 20 throughout the nation.

Filice, a native Californian, also has been working as a sideman with Benny Goodman's Quintet on BG's new records

and Monday night NBC broadcasts for Mobilgas. He intends to continue with Benny until bookings for his own combo make it impossible.

The other three members of the group are Dick Anderson, who attended college in San Jose with Ernie; Larry Breen, bass, and Hal Burman, drums, who also serves as Filice's personal manager.

Jim Conkling, of Cap's repertoire division, was the man behind the signing of the combo. Filice uses a "mute" on his squeezebox which he invented himself.

IT'S HERE!

**Martha Tilton**

with Vocal Group and Dean Elliott  
And His Orchestra

CAP. 395

**Capitol RECORDS**

THAT'S MY DESIRE

I WONDER,  
I WONDER,  
I WONDER

## vine street gab

BILLY ECKSTINE'S long-awaited appearance at Billy Berg's is under way, but hip Eckstine fans who have dropped in to latch his vibrato learned that his "band" was no band at all, but a group of six popular Los Angeles musicians who have been west coast fixtures for years. Al Killian, high-note trumpeter; Wardell Gray, an amazingly talented young tenor sax star, and Sonny Criss, alto man, are the sparkplugs of the unit. Eckstine had the band waiting for him under Killian's supervision when he arrived for his Berg's job. Business at the spot is still far below par.

Al Jolson, who is back in business again with a vengeance, returned from a fishing trip to Guaymas and is planning a long trip to Churchill Downs for Kentucky Derby.

Monte Proser now figures the opening date for his new Hollywood Copacabana nitery to be about July 30. It will be the plushiest boite west of the Chi Chez Paree.

Harry Tobias celebrating his 25th year as ASCAP member. His newest ditty is "A Thousand Times a Day" which Joe Alexander will introduce on wax.

Freddy Martin's slightly exasperated. His race hosses still haven't hit the state first.

Warner Brothers' Max Steiner, now composing special music for "The Unfaithful," married Hollywood real estate agent Lee Blair.

Al Jarvis now coming on KLAC air 30 minutes earlier, his "Make Believe Ballroom" daily stanza being heard from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Al's controversial "Can You Tie That?" program moved from Sunday to 12:30 noon every Saturday with the show being rebroadcast Sunday eves at 7:30.

Capitol's plans to sell its records in foreign countries are proceeding fast now that Sandor A. Porges has been named head of the waxworks' new international division. Porges was for 28 years head of the foreign department of Columbia.

Harold Stern brought his society crew from N. Y. to play the L. A. Chanteclair.

# Kenton Ignores Health Warning



HERB HAYMER, who was playing the big time circuits with Red Norvo's old Swing Sextet at the age of 16, today ranks as probably the busiest and most-in-demand tenor saxist in Hollywood. He is heard on every Paul Weston broadcast and record and also has his radio quota and an average of five record dates every week. Photo by Ray Whitten.

## Stan Hopes to 'Fool' His Doc

Warned by his personal physician that if he doesn't quit the road and take a long rest he must face the danger of an impending physical breakdown, Stan Kenton last month briefly made plans to enjoy a long vacation through the summer months and then—just as suddenly—revoked his vacation idea and decided to continue as a bandleader.

"I'm not in quite as bad shape as my doc thinks," Stan telephoned friends in Hollywood from Texas, where he was one-nighting it across the nation for the start of a theater date in Baltimore. "I feel that I might be in worse shape if I abandoned by orchestra right at this point. I think I can fool my doc—he means well but on the day he examined me I was extremely exhausted and my condition actually isn't as dangerous as he thinks."

### Theaters, Meadowbrook Next

Stan had even placed all his musicians and singers on notice, and June Christy was preparing to head back to Decatur, Ill., to spend several weeks with her parents.

When Kenton and his band close on May 1 at the Hippodrome Theater in Baltimore, they will move to the Howard in Washington, D. C., for a week and follow that with another week at the Earle Theater in Philadelphia.

### Stan Planning a Second Album

Then, starting May 16, Stan's gang begins a long-awaited two-week engagement at Frank Daily's famed Meadowbrook Ballroom in Cedar Grove, N. J. Following the Meadowbrook assignment, the Artistry in Rhythm troupe takes off on a long series of one-nighters through the month of June.

Kenton's physician, in Hollywood, examined Stan in early April while the band was in the middle of a series of record sessions for Capitol. Stan had just wound up 30 consecutive one-nighters in the Pacific Northwest and,



SHE'S ONLY 8, and she's been singing only a year. Yet little Toni Harper of Los Angeles was the recent juvenile star of the "Sumpin's Jumpin'" show along with Benny Carter's band, Herb Jeffries, Al Jarvis and other prominent performers. She's also appeared in several films as a Nick Castle dancer.

admittedly, was more fatigued than usual. The medico urged Kenton to "check out" for several months, asserting that sleep, rest and a rigid diet should be adopted by Kenton at once.

But Kenton won't quit. He wants to record another album of eight sides for release in early 1948 and he also feels that being out on the road in the warm, sunny summer months will prove beneficial to his health. "I'll make out okay," he said. "Breaking up my band, even temporarily, would hurt me more than a physical breakdown. It's all I live for."

## More Competish for Down Beat in L. A.

The first issue of Musicland, a new magazine which will be published every two weeks at 1746 Las Palmas, Hollywood, was scheduled to hit the racks on May 1. It will be distributed nationally. It's the second music sheet to be launched within two weeks, Dennis Madison having introduced his Music Maker weekly in mid-April.

## Joe Mooney Quartet Set for New Nitery

The man who has bagged more publicity than any other show business figure in a decade, Joe Mooney, will bring his quartet to Hollywood sometime this summer to play Monte Proser's new Copacabana Club now under construction on the Sunset Strip. Mooney, who sings and plays accordion, has been a fixture on New York's 52nd Street for many months. Proser isn't sure when his spot will be open. A name band and top-money acts are still to be signed.

## West Coast Welcomes First Fem Songplugger

California songpluggers admitted Mildred Cavanaugh, of Criterion Music and Tex Ritter Songs, Inc., to membership ranks with union card. She's the first fem to be admitted, and is by far the best-lookin' plugger west of Chi.

BENNY GOODMAN  
AND HIS QUINTET

**'Fine and Dandy'**

From the musical  
"FINE AND DANDY"

**Benny GOODMAN**

**'The Lonesome Road'**

Capitol RECORDS CAP. 394

BENNY GOODMAN  
AND HIS QUARTET





**SIGNED AND SET** to star on the summer General Electric radio stanza for 13 Sundays starting July 13, Woody Herman and Peggy Lee will be teamed professionally for the first time with Peggy's guitar-plucking husband, Dave Barbour, leading the GE orchestra behind them. Herman, who abandoned his own orchestra last December, will be master of ceremonies. The program will air over CBS from Hollywood every Sabbath afternoon. In this photo, Woody and Peg are shown as they presented the championship trophy last month to members of the Los Angeles Monarchs at the play-off of the Pacific Coast Hockey League finals. ABC Photo

## Band, Disc Shop, Airshow, Pic Keep Al Donahue Hopping

Al Donahue was expected back in Hollywood about May 5 after four weeks of one-nighters, with his orchestra, through Texas. Before he left town, in early April, the Boston-reared maestro completed work in Columbia's forthcoming "Sweet Genevieve" film musical. Donahue has a fat part and even acts like an actor, he said.

Donahue's daily "Music Shop" jockey program over Station KFVD, meanwhile has been increased to 45 minutes. It airs at 3 each afternoon. While in Texas Donahue was heard on the show via special transcriptions. In addition to

his bandleading, acting and jockey efforts, Al operates his own record store near the L.A. City College campus.

### Berlin Helping With 'Easter Parade' Film

Irving Berlin, vet songwriter, is busy on the MGM lot assisting with production of "Easter Parade" which Arthur Freed is producing. Set for roles in the pic are Gene Kelly, Judy Garland, Red Skelton, Kathryn Grayson, Frank Sinatra and others. Berlin's music, obviously, will be plugged extensively throughout the pic.

**9 Top Stars — In Buddy De Sylva's Album**  
will make you want to curl up in a chair  
and recapture yesterday's romancing . . .  
dreams of tomorrow

*Somebody Loves Me*

**COMING YOUR WAY—IN MAY**



**Capitol**  
RECORDS

## Peg Lee Snares Air, Film and Nitery Bids

Peggy Lee became one of the busiest fem singers in the business, in April, when she teed off on her first engagement as a single in a night club, signed for a summer radio program and completed work in a lavish Technicolor musical short, all within a three-week period.

Peggy opened with Dave Barbour's orchestra at the Bocage, on April 15, and will remain as the solo star of the Bocage show until Sarah Vaughn comes in on May 6.

The summer radio show for which Peg signed contracts will start on July 13 over CBS with Woody Herman coming out of semi-retirement to serve as emcee and singer. Barbour will lead the band. General Electric is sponsoring the program as a summer replacement for Phil Spitalny's all-girl ork.

The film short also features Barbour as a maestro as well as Peggy's sultry singing style. Paramount, which has been excited over their combined talents for years, decided to produce a short, in full color, as a sort of test with the view of eventually building Peggy as a screen star.

## New Band, Bride For Benny Carter

Benny Carter has been rehearsing a new band in Hollywood following his April marriage, in Mexico, to Ione Tucker. Mrs. Carter is a pianist and teacher and came to the west coast from New York to marry the "amazing man of music."

Musicians who are woodshedding Carter's arrangements include Irving Ashby, guitar; Marshall Royal, alto; George Washington, trombone; Lucky Thompson, tenor, and 13 others. No bookings for the band had been set as the Capitol News rolled on the presses.

## All This for Films, And 'Bullets' Too

When George (Bullets) Durgom, manager of the Pied Pipers, Connie Haines and the Page Cavanaugh Trio, sold all three attractions last month to Universal-International Studios for a musical short, he threw himself into the package and will be seen in the short doing a "specialty." Will Cowan is the producer.

# Top Artists Will Honor Buddy De Sylva

## New Album Dedicated To Famed Showman

A FORMER student of the University of Southern California, who grew up to become one of the greatest showmen in history, will be honored this month with the release of Capitol's "Somebody Loves Me" album featuring Johnny Mercer, the King Cole Trio, Peggy Lee, Margaret Whiting, Martha Tilton, Andy Russell, Clark Dennis, the Pied Pipers, Hal Derwin and the orchestras of Paul Weston and Dave Barbour.

Buddy De Sylva, an "AA" ASCAP member who teamed with George Gershwin, Al Jolson and scores of other noted musicians to turn out more than 50 smash hit songs over a 20-year period, was born in New York City. He became a Californian when he was only 2. When he was 4 years old he appeared in theaters, doing impersonations. Balked by his grandfather in pursuing a career on the stage, young Buddy went to school and earned spending money throwing newspapers and working in packing houses.

### Dived for Dimes at Catalina

"I remember one summer," he says, "when I cleaned up—and that's no pun—diving for coins in the Pacific ocean at Santa Catalina Island. Then I attended U.S.C. for a year. In 1917 I wrote my first song."

The song was titled "N'Everything" and in order to get it performed Buddy gladly gave Al Jolson a half-interest in it. Joley started singing it and a few months later De Sylva, who had just become 21, received a royalty check for \$16,000. He hasn't had to toss a paper or dive for a dime since.

### Turned Out Tunes and Lyrics

"On New Year's day of 1918," De Sylva recalls, "my mother and I returned to New York. Back there I began writing in earnest. One of the first young men I met in Manhattan was George Gershwin. I guess we collaborated on about a dozen songs."

Buddy was a versatile young gent, alternating as a composer and lyricist and frequently doing both. The most popular songs carrying his name include "Avalon," "April Showers," "Minnie the Mermaid," "When Day Is Done," "Just a Memory," "Somebody Loves Me," "A Kiss In the Dark," "You're the Cream In My Coffee," "California, Here I Come," "Together," "Alabama Bound," "Wishing," "It All Depends On You," "The Birth of the Blues," "Sonny Boy," "Eadie Was a



**BETTY HUTTON**, who got her first break seven years ago when Buddy De Sylva made her the star of his "Panama Hattie" Broadway show, is pictured here with De Sylva himself. Tribute will be paid the popular showman-songwriter this month when Capitol releases its new "Somebody Loves Me" album featuring eight of Buddy's most popular songs as performed by a raft of top artists. He now serves as chairman of the board of directors of Capitol Records, Inc.

Lady," "The Varsity Drag," "Keep Smilin' at Trouble," "You're An Old Smoothie," "If You Knew Susie" and dozens more.

### Back to Coast as Film Producer

By 1933, in fact, he had composed 500 published songs. That memorable depression year followed his 1929 return to Hollywood, where he clefled

songs for Fox Pictures. The team of De Sylva, Brown and Henderson became the nation's foremost tunewriting combo. Later the two partners elected to go back east. "I wanted to remain on the west coast," says Buddy, "so I became a producer. I stayed in the film business until 1939 with but a single break—once I skipped back to New York to produce 'Take a Chance' on Broadway."

In 1939, De Sylva hit a hot streak as a Broadway musical comedy producer. In rapid succession he rang the bell with "DuBarry Was a Lady," "Panama Hattie," and "Louisiana Purchase." It was in "Hattie" that he took Betty Hutton, a Vincent Lopez orchestra singer, and coached and helped establish her as a star. June Allyson was Betty's understudy in the same show.

### Songs Still Sung, Films Still Shown

Following the smashing Broadway triple-triumph, De Sylva once again turned to motion pictures, becoming executive producer—top boss—at Paramount. In two years he pulled the studio out of debt. And Betty Hutton became an even bigger click via celluloid.

De Sylva, today, remains active in show business as chairman of the board of directors of Capitol Records, Inc. But every hour of the day his songs are played and sung throughout the world, and many of his earlier films, including five he produced which featured Shirley Temple, are still being exhibited in remote sections of the world.

Capitol has selected eight of his best ditties, recorded them by a select roster of popular artists, and will release the album in Buddy's honor this month. Appropriately, it will be titled "Somebody Loves Me."

## Haymes Prepping Trip

Dick Haymes is preparing to train east for theater appearances next month. With Helen Forrest, he will play the Golden Gate in San Francisco before striking off for a June 29 opening at the Atlantic City Steel Pier. Other theaters will follow through July and August.

JUST OUT!

**'IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER'  
'MY ADOBE HACIENDA'**

**The DINNING SISTERS**

with the ART VAN DAMME QUINTET

**Capitol** RECORDS CAP. 389







**Natural leader of the Natural Seven is Red Ingle, who will make his debut as a recording artist this month with a zany version of "For Seventy Mental Reasons." Ingle, who was featured with Ted Weems' band for many years, blows a tenor sax golden-bantam style. There are seven men in Red's "Natural" band, natch!**



**Sagebrush Johnny Mercer teams with Wesley Tuttle (left) and Merle Travis to lyricize "A Little Too Fer" and "The Covered Wagon Rolled Right Along,"** neatly backed on Johnny's latest etching. The orchestra assisting Mercer, Tuttle and Travis is listed simply as the Coon Hunters.



**Bobby Sherwood is preparing to invade the Pacific Northwest this month with his band. It all sounds familiar to Jan Garber and Jan's canary, Joan Carrol, who have made the same trek many times before. Bobby's newest record features his singing of "There's Them That Do" with Lynn Stevens.**

—Photos by Charlie Mihn

**Big name sidemen who sparked Eddie Laguna's recent Hollywood bash included, left to right, Buddy Childers, Lee Young, Andre Previn, Laguna, Vido Musso, Jimmy Mundy, Willie Smith and Eddie Safranski. Childers, Musso and Safranski are regularly featured with Stan Kenton. The joint jumped.**





## Big 'Shakeup' In Alvino Rey Ork at Aragon

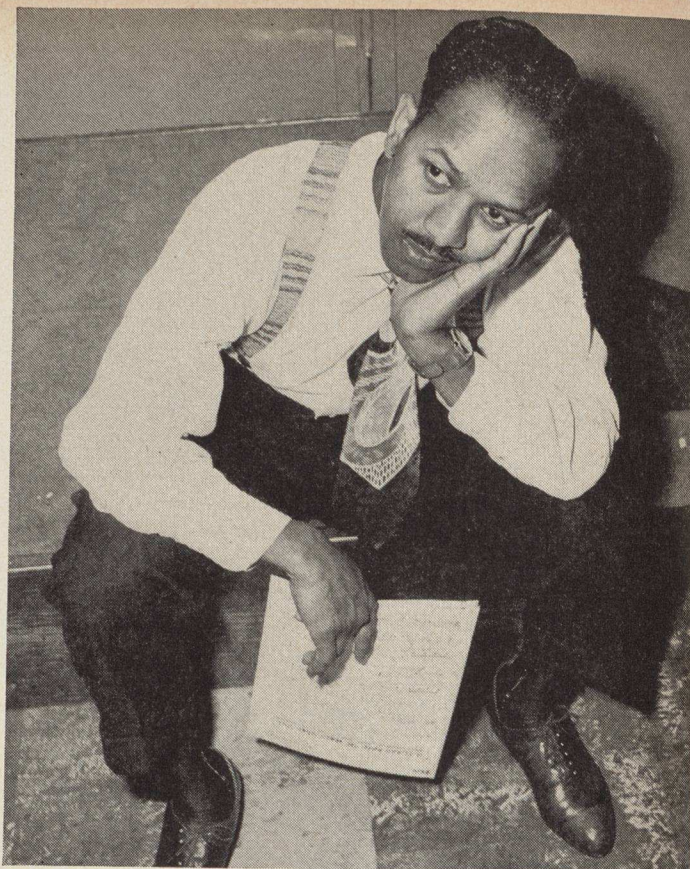
Alvino Rey opened at the Aragon Ballroom outside Los Angeles on April 25 with a band that stacked up considerably different than the one he had been fronting in the east. Instead of 10 brass, the guitarist now features three trumpets and four trombones. The trumpet players, however, double on "bass trumpets" which were specially designed and constructed in New York. "No other band gets our sound," Rey reported.

The personnel comprising the "Blue Reys," Alvino's vocal group, also has undergone revisions with members of the band now forming the quartet. Solo singers who are getting billing at the Aragon include Jo Ann Ryan, Jimmy Joyce, Rocky (Piano) Coluccio, Dick (Trumpet) Cathcart and Elmer Schneider.

Bill Young continues to manage the band on the road. It is Young, too, who handles the "vocal" on Rey's new record of "Mama Blues" just released by Capitol.

Absent from the west coast for nearly a year, Rey returned in high spirits and asserted that the band business has pulled out of the doldrums and that audiences now prefer slow tempos, short introductions and "danceable" arrangements. "Screamers and flagwavers are out," he reported. Rey continues to perform his electric guitar solos as well as his "talking" gitbox which he invented and developed.

With Buddy Moreno back in the fold after a short fling as leader of his own band in Chicago, Harry James and his orchestra shoved off for eastern engagements in mid-April. The sidemen were virtually all new, the Los Angeles union having nixed Harry's plans to take certain key men on the road. James, his horn and musicians are expected back in Hollywood in August.



**BEAT CAT**, after waxing four masters on an all-night biscuit session in Hollywood, is Joe Alexander. The little man with the big, big voice rang the bell with "Heartaches" on his second session for Capitol with Dave Cavanaugh's orchestra backing his baritone pipes effectively. A former Floyd Ray sideman, Alexander was the first to make a modern record of "Heartaches" since Ted Weems introduced it 13 years ago. Recently he has been featured also, on the AFRS "Personal Album" and "Jubilee" programs beamed to servicemen overseas and in U. S. hospitals.

.... Photo by Charlie Mihn.

## Film for Philharmonica 3

Three spots in Jack Carson's forthcoming "Two Guys From Texas" musical have been assigned to the Philharmonica Trio, three west coast lads who team up with mouth-harps to offer unconventional musical and vocal arrangements. Warner Brothers is making the pic.

## Murray Arnold Ankles Martin

Freddy Martin will again lose his pianist this month when Murray Arnold, who last year repiaced Jack Fina at the keys, and who doubles as vocalist, cuts out to form his own ork for a May 27 opening at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley, Cal. Replacing Arnold will be Barclay Allen, who has led his own trio in Los Angeles.

Martin is said to be more than slightly peeved with Arnold's move. Freddy heads east himself next month to play theaters, Eddy Howard and band coming west to take over Martin's stand at the Ambassador Hotel's Coconut Grove.

THE CAPITOL

THE CAPITOL

# Musicians Blamed By Nichols for Current Slump in Hot Music

American jazz is slipping in popularity and many musicians who should be working towards its growth are chiefly to blame. Take it or leave it, but that's how one of the greatest jazzmen of all time sizes up the present plight of hot music.

Rolling along in high himself, and jamming 'em into the Club Morocco in Hollywood where his Pennies are featured along with Frankie Laine's songs nightly, Loring (Red) Nichols argues that the younger crop of artists—at least a good many of them—lack sincerity in their work. "In the old days, the twenties, the thirties and right up until the war," says Red, "musicians prided themselves on improving their playing, and listening to others so that weak points might be strengthened. Today the kids don't listen to anyone but themselves.

### "6,000 Notes a Minute"

"A trumpet player comes along who can't get a beautiful tone. So he stops trying and turns to tricks to attract attention. That's what is wrong with these belligerent be-boppers, or what's left of them. By running six thousand notes a minute, bad notes, good notes, in-between notes, just so they're notes regardless of the chords, they attract attention. But it is lousy jazz and guys who do that are lousing up the profession but good."

Nichols himself is a Beiderbecke man.

Like Bobby Hackett and Billy Butterfield, Red considers Bix—along with Louis Armstrong—the best jazz trumpeters who ever lived. Nichols asserts that he also likes a majority of the current poll-winning group, men like Charlie Shavers, Roy Eldridge, Buck Clayton and Joe Thomas. "They play hot with incredible skill and technique," Red declares, "and they can turn around and play music so that it is moving, beautiful and mood-provoking."

The frenetic be-boppers, on the other hand, just play fast—even on slow ballads. "They claim they are offering 'new' sounds," Nichols sneers, "but the sounds they make are the sounds any amateur musician makes when he is learning his scales."

### Pays Tribute to Goodman

Good taste is an intangible asset, Nichols points out, and is therefore impossible to define definitely. But if some of the younger men would take the

time to listen to hundreds of other musicians, he believes they would "automatically" improve their own playing and concepts of what music—or jazz—really is. "Benny Goodman is being called 'corny' now by some young blowers," Nichols adds. "But for sheer brilliant musicianship coupled with unerring good taste there is no one coming up the path that even comes close to Benny."

Nichols and many Hollywood musicians are in accord with the recent article in the Cap News which pointed out that be-bop music had proved itself a temporary fad, and that in Los Angeles it was virtually impossible to find any of the be-boppers working steadily. Their records are not selling. Norman Granz' last concert in L.A. in March was a dismal flop with several be-boppers heavily billed. Ross Russell, Metronome and Leonard Feather to the contrary, it's all a thing of the past in California.

### Sees Jazz Revival—if!

Jazz can return in popularity, as it did a few years back, Nichols and many another veteran are convinced. But only if the musicians themselves return to the standards of musicianship upon which jazz is based. "Playing a million bum notes in the trumpet's high register has set back jazz 10 years," Red says. "But there's always a market for impeccable musicianship, whether it's Ellington's magnificent ensembles or Toscanini's baton. Now that the fad has passed we'll be hearing some great jazz again."

—DEXTER.



**LORING (RED) NICHOLS**, still a box-office champion after more than 20 years as a bandleader, plays nightly at the Club Morocco in Hollywood. Photo by Ray Whitten.

## Goldwyn Gets Raksin

David Raksin, who composed the melody of "Laura" two years ago, is busy scoring special music for "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" which the Sam Goldwyn Studios are currently producing. The film will star Danny Kaye.

**ANDY and DELLA RUSSELL**  
with PAUL WESTON and His Orchestra

JUST RELEASED!  
"DREAMS ARE A DIME A DOZEN"  
"UNLESS IT CAN HAPPEN WITH YOU"  
CAP. 386

Capitol RECORD

HER LATEST!  
**Jo Stafford**  
with PAUL WESTON and His Orchestra

"A SUNDAY KIND OF LOVE"  
"IVY"  
From The Universal-International Picture, "Ivy"

Capitol RECORD



## off the cuff

DESPITE THE omelet laid recently when Norman Granz presented another in his series of jazz concerts in Los Angeles, a new series of similar bashes is being sponsored here. Under the title of "Just Jazz," the first was scheduled for April 29 with Gene Norman, widely-known radio spieler, emseing and producing with the help of Edward Laguna.

Benny Goodman, Benny Carter and a dozen or more other satellites were being billed by Norman and Laguna for the first presentation at Pasadena Civic Auditorium. The hall seats 3,000 and another season will be scheduled in about six weeks. "No barnyard tenor saxmen or screechers will be invited," Norman said. "Nor do we expect to make any money on the events."



"TAMALE TONY" Pastor is the new attraction at the Hollywood Palladium, replacing Les Brown's band. It's the second trip to the Pally for Pastor. He'll hold forth throughout the month of May, fronting the band with his tenor pipe and insinuating vocals.

Photo by Charlie Mihn.

## 'Pastorized' Music For Columbia Pic

Before opening at the Palladium April 29, Tony Pastor and his band completed work in a forthcoming film musical at Columbia Studios in Hollywood. With Arthur Dreifuss directing, the film is titled "Three Blondes and a Redhead" and Pastor's self-styled pastorized music will be featured in at least two production numbers.

Pastor is playing his second engagement at the Palladium, and followed Les Brown on the ornate podium. KNX-CBS airs his band nightly.

**the KING COLE trio**

**'You Don't Learn That in School'**

**'Meet Me at No Special Place'**

(AND I'LL BE THERE AT NO PARTICULAR TIME)  
Vocals by King Cole

**Capitol Records** CAP. 393

## Les Brown's Butch Stone to Lead Own Band

After five years as Les Brown's number one attraction, Butch Stone was ready to leave the band on May 1 and go out on his own. Stone, a New Yorker who played saxophone and handled novelty vocals with the "band of renown," has been contracted for a comedy spot on a CBS radio show. He also is building a small band of his own.

The Brown band, which was to close at the Palladium on April 27, takes to the road on May 1 on a long tour into the Pacific Northwest. During the 30-day trip the group will play three nights at Jantzen Beach, Portland, and a week at Salt Air in Salt Lake City.

On June 20, following a two-week vacation here in Hollywood, Les trains out again to open at Elitch's Gardens in Denver on a two-week stand.

Stone joined Brown in 1942 after having worked as a member of the Van Alexander and Larry Clinton orchestras. Stone said he was all set to be booked into Billy Berg's niteroy here in Hollywood in early May. Ray Kellogg and Eileen Wilson, meanwhile, will handle all the vocals with Brown's band in Stone's absence.

## Woodwinds Stressed In New Combo Led By Bill Millner

And still more new bands are being formed in Hollywood. Along with Jimmy Zito's new group, this month, was organized a 12-piece combo which emphasizes woodwinds heavily. The leader is Bill Millner, who holds down the alto sax chair.

Millner gave his lineup as Julius De-Rubertis, flute and piccolo; Mario Di-Tullio, oboe and English horn; Al Pelligrino, clarinet and tenor sax; Charlie Sharpe, bass clarinet; Max Dessaur, bassoon; Pinky Savitt, trumpet; Fred Waldron, French horn; John Dart, harp; Joe Chaddock, drums; Thurman Teague, bass; Frank Patchen, second alto. Arrangers for Millner include Johnny Thompson, LeRoy Holmes, Howard Gibeling, Ray Conniff, Harry Rodgers and Millner himself.

Minner, as yet, hasn't latched a steady job with his fledgling crew but MCA is looking.

## Meet the Jockey!

GAY BATSON, and you can read that again, spins the blacks from midnight to 2 a.m. over New Orleans' Station WDSU and knows what he's gabbing about, for a decade ago he played his way through the University of Wisconsin with a hot trumpet in a campus dance ork.



Batson is batty about hot music, but he's also versatile enough to announce the New Orleans opera and symphony airings. His "Midnight Dancing Party" has a big and loyal audience through the South; Gay himself says the reason that he plays so many Bobby Sherwood faces is because B. S. happens to be his fave dance crew. "Apparently," he confides, "none of my listeners object. I never get a beef."

## 11 Men in New Zito Orchestra

Jimmy Zito organized his own band in Hollywood in April, following his marriage to blonde June Haver, 20th-Fox star. Long prominent for his spectacular trumpet tooting in the Les Brown band, Zito already has played several weekends at the Trianon Ballroom with a compact but full-sounding ork of 11 musicians.

Frank Comstock, also an ex-Les Brownie, is writing the arrangements for Zito. The rhythm section is comprised of Keith Greko, piano; Arnold Fishkind, bass; Jackie Mills, drums. Reeds include Don Raffel, Mark Douglas, Walter Weidler and Clint Davis. Trombones shape up with Ollie Wilson, Herb Harper and Sidney Harris.

The new Mrs. Zito met Jimmy when both were working in Ted Fio Rito's band.

Seymour Heller is Zito's personal manager.

## Patrons Demand Return Of Johnny White Unit

Johnny (Vibes) White's slick little combo returned to the Club Rounders on Hollywood's Sunset Boulevard in April after customers demanded his return. White, a Benny Goodman discovery of a few seasons back, is being booked by Art Whiting and will soon be featured on records.

## singers' stuff

BING CROSBY has chosen June 18 as the date of his final broadcast of the season for Philco. The series will resume on Sept. 24, transcribed and aired over approximately 400 stations, said to be the biggest weekly hook-up in history. Crosby will "get lost" through the summer months and now seems undecided whether to make the jaunt to Great Britain he had in mind all last winter.

Peggy Lee pulled a surprise by recording a side with Benny Goodman's Sextet for future Cap release.

Julia Lee, Kaycee thrush, trains in for waxing sessions this month in Hollywood. Sam (Baby) Lovett, her personal drummer, comes too.

Lena Horne hopped off to Chicago to chirp at the Chez Paree.

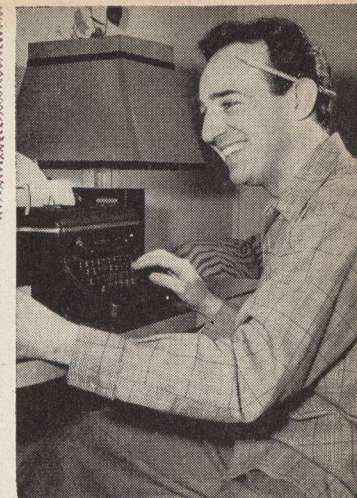
Harry James replaced Marion Morgan, who exited to tackle radio, with Pat Flaherty, who chirped briefly with Les Brown last year. Band is now out on the road.

Jean Sablon and Jan Savitt's band moved into Ciro's on April 11.

Frankie Laine, who's getting hot as a singer hereabouts, up and at 'em again following minor operation. Frances Wayne subbed for him at Club Morocco with Red Nichols' Pennies.

Ina Ray Hutton forming a new band again for eastern dates.

Florentine Gardens announces that Sophie Tucker will head their floorshow starting in September.



HAL DERWIN, a Chicagoan who long ago shifted his base of operations to Hollywood, pecks out fan mail on his portable. He's featured not only on records but also on Capitol transcriptions on several hundred radio stations, usually with Frank DeVol's orchestra providing backgrounds. Gene Lester Photo

## Movie Music Eyed by Byrne

Bobby Byrne's successful run at the Casino Gardens will be followed by a long trek east and the organization of another aggregation by the Detroit-born trombonist.

Convinced that no bandleader is paying enough attention to special music created for motion picture soundtracks, Bobby intends to organize a 23-piece orchestra in New York which will perform, in dance tempo, selected original themes by such men as Max Steiner, Miklos Rozsa, Alfred Newman, Franz Waxman and Victor Young.

Byrne's plans call for the use of 11 strings and several woodwinds.

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MUSIC THAT SAYS

*Somebody Loves Me*

COMING YOUR WAY—IN MAY





## who's where

PEGGY LEE and DAVE BARBOUR: Bo-  
cage Room until May 4.  
KING COLE TRIO: Lincoln Theater, May  
13-19.

TONY PASTOR: Palladium.  
JIMMY ZITO: Trianon, weekends.  
BOBBY BYRNE: Casino Gardens.  
ALVINO REY: Aragon.  
BENNY GOODMAN: NBC, Hollywood.  
WOODY HERMAN: KLAC, Hollywood.  
AL DONAHUE: KFVD, Los Angeles.  
RED NICHOLS: Club Morocco.  
JOE ALEXANDER: Red Feather Club.  
BILLY ECKSTINE: Billy Berg's.  
ERROLL GARNER: The Haig.  
JOHNNY WHITE: Club Rounders.  
JAN SAVITT: Ciro's.  
MILT WAIN: Hotel Stowell.  
EDGAR HAYES: Down Beat Club.  
WINI BEATTY: Casablanca.  
JEAN SABLON: Ciro's.  
GEECHIE SMITH: Cricket Club.  
JOE DAUBEK: Penthouse.  
RAY WHITAKER: Town House.  
NICK COCHRAN: Larry Potter's.  
MATTY MALNECK: Slapsy Maxie's.  
FREDDY MARTIN: Ambassador Hotel.  
RUSS MORGAN: Hotel Biltmore.  
EMIL BAFFA: Florentine Gardens.  
MANNY STRAND: Earl Carroll's.  
ABBEY BROWNE: Charley Foy's.  
FRANKIE LAINE: Club Morocco.  
FREDDIE FISHER: Mell's Madhouse.  
TONY FERRARO: Italian Village.  
AL KAYLEE: Hideaway Club.  
JOSE FLORES: Harry's Lounge.  
TOMMY PEDERSON: Palladium, Mon-  
days only.

### Sketch Scoots East

Sketch Henderson up and left Holly-  
wood for eastern commitments with his  
band on April 2. It's the group's first  
road trip. The blond pianist is not ex-  
pected back in Filmtown until Sep-  
tember. MCA is booking.

Emil Newman is conducting an ork  
of 100 musicians for Sam Goldwyn's  
"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" film  
soundtrack.

Pat Mackey chirping with new Jimmy  
Zito band.

# 'Tophand' Mag Names Award Winners in the Western and Folk Fields

By CLIFFIE STONE

The motion picture industry wasn't the only group to observe its  
awards-giving night last month. In the western and folk music field  
"Tophand" magazine announced its annual achievement awards at Tex  
Williams' Palace Barndance. And the hand who won most of the honors  
hands down turned out to be Merle  
Travis, who was named the out-  
standing folk singer of the year.

All of which wasn't much of a sur-  
prise to those who follow western and  
folk music even casually.

### Williams Comes Up Fast

Bre'r Williams, Tex himself, was  
cited as the outstanding western band-  
leader, which is fast travelin' for a man  
as new to the leader circle as Tex is.  
The same Mr. Williams likewise was  
hailed as the best bandleader-vocalist.

### Meet the Jockey!

LEIGH KAMMAN of WLOL in Minne-  
apolis and St. Paul emcees the "Swing  
Club" every Saturday and reviews the  
new discs a la  
Al Jarvis and  
Alan Courtney.  
Only 24, Leigh  
has been jock-  
eysing seven  
years, several of  
which were  
spent in the  
army. A student  
at the U. of  
Minnesota,  
where he hopes  
to win a B.S. in  
journalism, he spends his spare time  
putting on jazz concerts and reminis-  
cing about the good old days when he  
announced "in person" sessions featur-  
ing the late Bob Zurke, Big Joe Sullivan  
and Red Dougherty's Mendota Buzzards.  
Kamman also interviews celebrities  
whenever they happen to be in his  
area. The Twin Cities love him.



Gene Autry was on hand to accept  
his award, based on his being the most  
popular actor and singer. Merle Travis  
and a rotund gent by the name of  
Cliffie Stone were called upon to accept  
top honors as songwriters, "Divorce  
Me C.O.D." and "No Vacancy" having  
been adjudged by "Tophand's" editors  
as having rung the bell.

Monte Hale was named most prom-  
ising western star. T. Texas Tyler walked  
away with "most unique song stylist,"  
Doris Freeman was tabbed as best girl  
bandleader, and special mention was  
made of the Western Publishing Co.,  
and Capitol Records, Inc., for achieve-  
ments within the western field of  
music.

### Tubb, Acuff Sack Their Gold

Southern California has been deluged  
with popular folk artists the past  
month. Ernest Tubb and his unit and  
Roy Acuff and his Smokey Mountain  
gang covered all the towns up and  
down the west coast and reportedly  
hauled home a load of California gold.

Here is how the western bands are  
stacked this month: T. Texas Tyler,  
Riverside Rancho; Tex Atchison, Paint-  
ed Post in Studio City; Tex Williams,  
Palace Barndance; Spade Cooley, Santa  
Monica pier; Red Murrell, the 97th  
Street Corral, and Ollie Rasmussen and  
his Nebraska Cornhuskers out in May-  
wood. All these spots are Los Angeles  
suburbs, in case western fans care to  
write the leaders mentioned here.

Tex Ritter is playing to big crowds  
in the South. . . Jack Guthrie going  
into New Mexico. . . Pappy (Gube)  
Beaver bouncing back to Knoxville after  
a road trip. . . Wesley Tuttle's "Mail  
Order Mama" is expected to become a  
big success. It will be out soon. . .  
Jimmy Wakely finished his first of a  
new series of westerns at Monogram  
Studios. Hmmm.

With Jimmy Dorsey booked into the  
Palladium Sept. 2, it looms likely that  
he will be bucking his brother Tommy's  
band. Tommy owns the competing  
Casino Gardens Ballroom and will soon  
reorganize and book his own band into  
his own ballroom.

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give you recorded music at its best ... when  
and where you want it.  
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Capitol's Luxury Portable. In stock, now, for vacation pleasure ahead.

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## Only One 'Original' Remains



HERE IS the potent trombone quintet which Stan Kenton now is featuring on his eastern tour. West to east, they line up with Skip Layton, Harry Forbes, Kai Winding, Milton Bernhart and Bart Varsalona. Note that Winding blows a valve trom. Kenton's "Artistry in Rhythm" opens at the Earle Theater in Philadelphia on May 9 for a week

and then moves onto the ornate Meadowbrook bandstand in Cedar Grove, N. J., for a run of two weeks starting May 16. Layton and Winding handle virtually all the trombone solos. Forbes is one of the original S. K. sidemen dating back to the band's 1941 birth at Balboa Beach.

Photo by Gene Howard.